

United States Department of Agriculture



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May 8, 2013

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 210-13-09

SUBJECT: ENG – PAYMENT SCENARIO GUIDANCE FOR IRRIGATION FIELD DITCH (PS-388) AND IRRIGATION DITCH LINING (PS-428)

TO: All Offices

Purpose: Provide guidance on use of scenarios for irrigation turnouts and check gates.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2013

This year payment schedules have been a challenge. They are not what everyone is used to, but difficulties were expected since this is the first year for a very significant change in how payment schedules are developed and implemented. This bulletin is not timely since over 80% of the financial assistance is already obligated. However, until the scenarios were in use and debated, there was no way to anticipate concerns.

Guidance for this year has asked planners to plan and contract for the closest technical scenario that best fits the actual “on-the-ground” situation. The payment NRCS is offering is not the same as last year, and it was never intended to be the same. We must recognize as we develop a contract, that the Contract Item Numbers (CIN’s) must be based on quantities that are physical and that will be measureable upon checkout and certification. Contracting for one scenario but implementing another scenario would be a falsification of government documents.

For Irrigation Field Ditch (PS-388), the payment schedule only covers the earth excavation. For Irrigation Ditch Lining (PS-428), the payment schedule covers earth work and the ditch lining. Turnouts, checks and other associated appurtenances are added with additional CIN’s using available scenarios from Structure for Water Control (PS-587).

There is confusion on which scenarios to use for turnouts and check structures. In PS-587, there are six scenarios for turnouts and check gates. These are: 1) Concrete Turnout Structure, 2) Slide Gate, 3) HDPE Turnout, 4) CMP Turnout, 5) Concrete Turnout Structure-Small, and 6) Concrete Turnout Structure-High Flow. In the payment schedule spreadsheet, the “Concrete Turnout Structure” is intended for structures using four or more cubic yards of concrete; while the “Concrete Turnout Structure-Small” is intended for structures with less than 4 cubic yards of concrete. Of course, each of these scenarios has its correlated scenario for historically underserved individuals.

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The "Concrete Turnout Structure" at \$656.23 per cubic yard is also for large concrete structures such as division boxes and weir structures. The "Screw-Flap Gate" scenario is for canal or diversion gates similar to a C-10 Waterman gate. Screw-Flap gates are not turnouts or check gates, even though a check gate may be lever or screw adjusted.

The only scenario to use for check structures is "Slide Gate". In the payment schedule spreadsheet the "Scenario Feature Measure" is width. Therefore, the unit cost is based on the width of the opening in the gate. For trapezoidal openings, the average open width would be the correct dimension to use in the contract and to use for checkout and certification.

Guidance from the State Office on selecting practice scenarios has been consistent since the advent of scenarios. The guidance is to select the scenario that is the most technically accurate, without regard to payment rates.

If you have any questions regarding this bulletin, please contact Roger Ford, State Conservation Engineer, at (505) 761-4430.



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